(c) if so, the details of the recommendations and the decisions taken in the matter; and

(d) by when, the recommendations are likely to take effect?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Check on Drug Abuse

1285. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the reports in media about police action to curb drug abuse;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the names of the drugs which are being used commonly by doctors in connivance with druggists and chemists;

(d) the number of persons arrested so far; and

(e) whether any Drug Abuse Management has been formed by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Government Hospitals

1286. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irregularities have been reported in various Government hospitals in the matter of purchase of machines and consumables, drugs and other imported equipments causing loss of huge revenue to the exchequers;

(b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last one year; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the officials involved in the irregularities and the estimated loss suffered by these hospitals as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, no irregularity has been reported in the matter of purchase of machines and consumables, drugs and other imported equipments in these hospitals during the last one year.

Use of herbal medicines

†1287. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent report by the World Health Organisation, 80 per cent of the world population depends on herbal medicinal system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have started a Central Medicinal Plant Development and Agriculture Scheme;

(c) whether Medicinal Plant Board has been constituted at national level;

(d) if so, the names of the members of this Board; and

(e) by when, it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Government is not aware of any Report of World Health Organisation which indicates dependence of 80% of World's population on herbal medicinal system.

(b) Government have introduced a scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants which includes subsidy of 30% subject to a maximum of Rs. 9.00 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The National Medicinal Plants Board has been established on 24.11.2000 under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister with MOS (H&FW) as Vice-Chairperson and the following members:—

(i) Secretary, Department of AYUSH; Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests; Secretary, Deptt. of Scientific and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.